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CAUSA

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Info: CM

- 1. Particularly since the desertion of Otto JEN, we have attempted to channel PDB UJDRIZZLY efforts toward the detection of <u>alleged</u> Rote Expelle contacts or personalities who are today most critically placed and potentially dangerous. There is reason to believe that CAUSA falls within this category. His position as Ministerialdirektor in the German Federal Chancellery certainly qualifies him as critically placed. We are providing below a review of material which tends to indicate that CAUSA was connected with the Harro SCHILZE-RDISEN group of the Rote Kapelle.
- 2. In paragraph 5 of MSB-1231, Merbert SNCELSTNG lists a group of persons from whom he collected information which he claims to have passed on to Harro SCHULZE-ROTSEN. The persons allegedly did not know where the information went. This list included Subject, described as:

"former official in Ministry of Interior, Berlin. Classed as one of Fossilien along with Buschmann. Always passed warmings on arrests, raids, etc., from his dealings with police affairs. Was involved in the July 20th affair and while waiting to be called in for questioning, escaped with ENGELSING who drove him out of Berlin in a car which had been concealed on the outskirts. Is now employed in a government post in the Fritish Zone."

The identity is definite. The "Possilien" were otherwise described by EMCELSINO as "a group of older and more experienced men who joined the SCHRIZE-BYSEN group and who were humorously called the "Possilien"." This description oldes the necessary subject matter of information CAUSA reportedly obtained from police contacts for EMCELSINO strongly suggests a witting role on the part of CAUSA, in spite of EMCELSING's statement that the group CAUSA belonged to did not know where the information want.

3. In the absence of other corroborating evidence, the accuracy of the information contained in para 2 above depends upon the veracity of Dr. Herbert ENCEISING, and there are some reasons to call this factor into question. This point is discussed in MCHA-1033, but the conclusions reached in that document cannot in our opinion be considered definite. On the other hand, we have not yet found other evidence connecting ENGELSING with the SCHILZE-BIYSEN group except the statements of ENGELSING, himself. We would certainly appreciate having such material called to our attention if it exists. This point may have been previously considered, and an answer may exist in headquarters Rota Kapelle files.

DIST: 2 \_ EF w/2 attachs. 3- COM w/2 attachs.

29 Sept. 54



DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SOURCESMETHOOSEXEMPTION 3828 MAZIWAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT DATE 2007



h. When CANSA was being considered for his present job, he enlisted UTILITY's assistance, and requested that UTILITY arrange to place a group of copies of testimonial letters on CANSA written by a number of his Criends in American channels. We forwarded this material to COM attached to MGLA-11h9 (not to EE), 25 January 1950. In the interest of expediting their transmittal, PDB did not copy or study the letters, as they were of no immediate PDB interest. During June 195h, however, to our surprise UTILITY expressed reservations monoerning CAUSA(probably on the basis of CAUSA's definite and close contact with Dr. Josef MUELLER and members of his circle), and we soon decided to try to get the CAUSA letters back for study. Copies of these letters, together with other indications concerning DUTCKE and allied consideration of CAUSA's fitness for his present job were received at PDB attached to EGNA-1753 and EDNA-1918 (neither went to EE).

5. The GAUSA testimonial letters are rather impressive. Several high Catholic church officials are represented, including Cardinal von PRETSING, stating that GAUSA is known to the Cardinal as a convinced Catholic Christian who always tried to prevent or ward off the injustices of the Masi regime. Several well known persons testify that CAUSA, in soite of the fact that he was author of the "Kommentaere mur deutschen Rassengesetsgebung" later showed personal courage in giving every possible assistance to Jews in an attempt to modify the effects of the Musenberg Laws. In the UJDRIZZLY context, the most pertinent of the letters are signed by Dr. Otto LENZ, Jacob KAISKR, and Dr. Josef MUELLER. The Jacob KAISKR letter dated 31 December 1945 is typical of the group and reads in part:

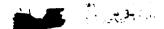
"From 1940 on I brought CAUSA together with the people around Dr. ODERDELER and the Generals BSCK and von HAMMERSTEIN; I too belonged to that sirele, the aim of which was to have the German people liberate themselves from the Hami yoke. CAUSA was informed of our intentions, and he informed us currently of the things that went on in the Ministry of the Interior and the RSRA. He collaborated with us in the planning of personal and factual decisions which were required for the time immediately after the planned overthrow of the Hitler regime. CAUSA, whom we, the men of the 20th of July - trusted implicitly, was supposed to take over the responsibilities of a state secretary of the Ministry of Education."

6. Interesting as the above may be in definitely pin-pointing CAUSA as a key member of the 20th of July plot, the really significant item in the CAUSA recommendation letters within sense of para 1 above, is a sworm declaration signed by Dr. Merbert ENGELSING and his wife Ingeborg ENGELSING, nee KOMLER. A copy of the declaration is attached. It reads in part as follows:

When we were involved in the active SCHHAZE-BOYSEN anti-Nami group (in connection with which most of our friends were hanged), he (CAUSA) did everything possible to provide an alibi for us. When I, the undersigned Herbert EMGELSING, was involved in the GJES anti-Nami action, he (CAUSA) saved my life by providing timely warning. We also know from many nocturnal conferences that CAUSA was one of the most clever participants of the 20th of July revolt."

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- 7. The ENGELSING affidavit tends to counteract the lack of other evidence that ENGELSING was a member of the SCHULE-B)YSEN group. Certainly CAUSA was in an excellent official position to know complete details concerning the nature, composition and fate of the group. If he had had no connection with ENGESING, it is inconceivable that CAUSA would have solicited and obtained the declaration in the first place. If he had had no connection whatever with the SCHULE-B)YSEN group, CAUSA, as a legal expert, would almost certainly not have included the affidavit in his group of supporting letters, unless he felt that the advantage to be gained by use of the ENGELSING letter nutweighed any danger incurred by clearly implying a former witting connection on his part to the SCHULZE-B)YSEN group.
- 8. Our copy of the ENGELSING affidavit is not dated. It was notarized as a true copy in Aschen on 25 February 1949. However, 't is obvious that the basic CAUSA recommendation letters, including the ENGELSING meno and the letters revealing GAUSA as a 20th of July personage were written during 1945 and 1946 and used by CAUSA to obtain his first post war position. During that period, it will be recalled, the main criterion for holders of public office under the occupation was an anti-Nasi record. Other affiliations were definitely secondary if not unimportant. Sensing this fact, many Germans freely made admissions of (Communist) contacts, then considered harmless or even commendatory, which have today become highly derogatory. It is nossible that CAUSA fell in this category when preparing his first group of letters and that through oversight, or otherwise, the ENGELSING affidavit remained in the original file which was notarized during February 1949 for re-use in connection with CAUSA's efforts to obtain his present federal position.
- 9. We have apparently received cost of the HTCOO Biographic Information Section file on CAUSA. There is no indication that the ENGELSINO affidavit received any consideration whatever. In fact, it would seem that the only reservations on the part of anybody (German or allied) concerned solely the question of whether CAUSA's former position in the Interior Ministry and his authorship of the Huernberg Racial Law commentary associated him too closely with the Nasi regime to allow his consideration for a key position in the Sundarepublic.
- 11. Please let us have traces of Dr. Kurt GERNES, born during 1899 in Stolp, Pommerania. PDB traces of DERNKE are attached and of course need not be repeated. Since 1 April 195h, Dr. BENNKE has lived at Berlin/4lmeredorf, Drandenburgischerstr. 22, telephone 915625.

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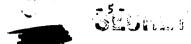


12. Aside from tracing and further study, probably no KHRARK action can be taken on the basis of the above information. Nevertheless, we felt that the ENGEL-SING statements on CAUSA count to be recalled, and the matter of FEG-LSING's affidant among the CAUSA letters deserves to be not on the record, since its significance has apparently never before been noticed. We have called this specific item to UTILIT's attention, but we have no indication of what action, if any, he may take. Any comments and pertinent traces you may be able to provide PDB will certainly be appreciated.

## \_\_Comment:

- 1. "LERSNER "produced" CAUSA for ZI PER at the time that he was under rather violent press attacks as a candidate for the position of State Secretary in the Chancellory in the first poster west German movement. It was GLERSNER who came to UTILITY with the CAUSA documents and it has been "LERSNER who maintained the regular link between CAUSA and ZIPPER. Incidentally, it was also "LERSNER who sometime in 1950 took up contact with BEHNKE in the Interior Ministry in Bonn.
- 2. The CAUSA descier meant little to us four or five years ago when I received it. We considered it to be a nolitical matter exclusively of interest to the High Countssioner to whom we passed it via the Countssioner to whom we passed it via the Counts of the counts of the semintained at that time. During the past year or so I have repeatedly thought of that descier and decided semines during the spring of this year (certainly long before the JIMB defection) to obtain it for study. In the process we have acquired, as Counts the CAUSA letters passed by us to ZIPPER assume significant proportions; they constitute practically the only substantive information in the HIGO file. EUDOM, for example, replied to a HTCOG request for information with a brief reference to CAUSA's authorship of the Huornberg Law commentary and the statement that he "enjoyed confidence of several high officers involved in the 20th of July plot".
- 3. We do not know the exact cause of TITLITI's renewed interest in CAUSA and ENGELSING. Sometime early in the spring of 195h, UTILITY asked for current information on ENGELSING without linking the matter to CAUSA. About the same time KLAUSHER confided to that the KIPPER GE staff had reservations about CAUSA. Prom conversations with UTILITY subsequent to the J'HN defection, I got the distinct impression that TIPPER must have retained copies of the CAUSA dossier produced by SLERSHER and that TITLITY was quite familiar with the contents. In any case, UTILITY expressed no interest in obtaining access to the originals that he had passed to us.
- 4. The extreme political sensitivity of this matter is obvious. STILITY is aware of this and is also soutely aware of the great stake that ZIPPER has in CAUSA who has been, for several years, their anchor man in UPGROWTH. There has been a good deal of evidence recently that the STILITY/CAUSA relationship has cooled considerably. However, we doubt that either has a real capability of changing the present situation as long as CAUSA is in office and STILITY heads ZIPPER.

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5. I do not think that UTILITY for a moment considers CAUSA to be a witting servant of the Sowlets. He does, however, feel that during the early years of the UTILITY/CAUSA cooperation he failed to accurately judge the nature of the relationability between CAUSA and a number of other UJDRIZZLY personalities who occupy top positions in the government. UTILITY does not feel that he can rule out at this time the possibility that CAUSA may be able to adjust his own religious and political views to support of a neutralist Germany.

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